

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**  
(Attorney Docket No. 007034.00008)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. SECTIONS 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.97 and 1.98, the Applicants wish to make the following references of record in the above-identified application as a result of the International Search Report (A copy of which is enclosed), in the corresponding PCT patent application No. PCT/FR2004/003003 and as a result of the Preliminary Search Report (A copy of which is enclosed) in the corresponding French Patent Application No. FR 0314001.

This Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with the continuing duty of candor as set forth in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56. Copies of the references cited and listed on the enclosed and completed Form-PTO/SB/08A are enclosed.

In accordance with MPEP §§ 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that the documents cited be given thorough consideration and that they be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing by the Examiner on Form-PTO/SB/08A, so that they will appear on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The present disclosure statement is being submitted on compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56 as an Examiner might consider the cited documents important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of such documents is not to be construed as an admission that such documents are necessarily relevant or prior art. No representative is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art, and in the course of such search, will review for relevance the documents cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of this application's filing date or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

Applicants believe no fees are due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be due to our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,  
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: May 26, 2006

By: /Rebecca P. Rokos/

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/FR2004/003003

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B23K1/00 B32B15/00 C22C21/00 C23C28/00 C23C30/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B23K B32B C22C C23C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99/60323 A (REYNOLDS METALS COMPANY; SUBHASISH, SIRCAR) 25 November 1999 (1999-11-25) page 3, last paragraph – page 4, paragraph 1 page 5, paragraph 2 examples N,P; table 1 page 13, last paragraph	1,7,8
Y	WO 00/71784 A (CORUS ALUMINIUM WALZPRODUKTE GMBH; MOOIJ, JOOP, NICOLAAS; WITTEBROOD,) 30 November 2000 (2000-11-30) page 1, lines 6-8,19-23 page 2, line 24 page 7, line 4 page 15, last paragraph examples 3,4; table 1 page 31, lines 6-12	2-6,9
Y		2-6,9

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

Date of mailing of the International search report

22 April 2005

02/05/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Rolle, S

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/FR2004/003003

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 02/060639 A (CORUS ALUMINIUM WALZPRODUKTE GMBH; WITTEBROOD, ADRIANUS; JACOBUS; WIJE) 8 August 2002 (2002-08-08) abstract -----	1-9
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 13, 5 February 2001 (2001-02-05) & JP 2000 303132 A (KOBE STEEL LTD; SHINKO ARUKOA YUSO KIZAI KK), 31 October 2000 (2000-10-31) abstract -----	1-9

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/FR2004/003003

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9960323	A 25-11-1999	US 6065534 A		23-05-2000
		EP 1080336 A1		07-03-2001
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		WO 02060639 A1		08-08-2002
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		JP 2004517734 T		17-06-2004
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JP 2000303132	A 31-10-2000	NONE		

## RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE PRÉLIMINAIRE

établi sur la base des dernières revendications déposées avant le commencement de la recherche

**N° d'enregistrement  
national**

FA 642882  
FR 0314001

DOCUMENTS CONSIDÉRÉS COMME PERTINENTS		Revendication(s) concernée(s)	Classement attribué à l'invention par l'INPI		
Catégorie	Citation du document avec indication, en cas de besoin, des parties pertinentes				
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 13, 5 février 2001 (2001-02-05) & JP 2000 303132 A (KOBE STEEL LTD;SHINKO ARUKOA YUSO KIZAI KK), 31 octobre 2000 (2000-10-31) * abrégé *	1-9			
X	US 2001/040180 A1 (WIJENBERG JACQUES HUBERT OLGA ET AL) 15 novembre 2001 (2001-11-15) * alinéa '0043!; revendication 1 *	1-9			
D,A	WO 02/40729 A (PECHINEY RENALU) 23 mai 2002 (2002-05-23) * abrégé *	1-9			
			DOMAINES TECHNIQUES RECHERCHÉS (Int.Cl.)		
			B23K B32B C22C C23C		
Date d'achèvement de la recherche		Examinateur			
19 avril 2004		Rolle, S			
CATÉGORIE DES DOCUMENTS CITÉS					
X : particulièrement pertinent à lui seul	T : théorie ou principe à la base de l'invention				
Y : particulièrement pertinent en combinaison avec un autre document de la même catégorie	E : document de brevet bénéficiant d'une date antérieure à la date de dépôt et qui n'a été publiée qu'à cette date de dépôt ou qu'à une date postérieure.				
A : arrière-plan technologique	D : cité dans la demande				
O : divulgation non-écrite	L : cité pour d'autres raisons				
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**ANNEXE AU RAPPORT DE RECHERCHE PRÉLIMINAIRE**  
**RELATIF A LA DEMANDE DE BREVET FRANÇAIS NO. FR 0314001 FA 642882**

La présente annexe indique les membres de la famille de brevets relatifs aux documents brevets cités dans le rapport de recherche préliminaire visé ci-dessus.

Les dits membres sont contenus au fichier informatique de l'Office européen des brevets à la date du 9-04-2004

Les renseignements fournis sont donnés à titre indicatif et n'engagent pas la responsabilité de l'Office européen des brevets, ni de l'Administration française

Document brevet cité au rapport de recherche		Date de publication	Membre(s) de la famille de brevet(s)		Date de publication
JP 200303132	A	31-10-2000	AUCUN		
US 2001040180	A1	15-11-2001	AT 243268 T AU 3173701 A AU 757702 B2 AU 4567100 A BR 0010818 A CA 2374853 A1 CA 2402205 A1 CN 1416377 T DE 60003432 D1 DK 1198625 T3 WO 0071784 A2 WO 0168312 A2 EP 1198625 A2 EP 1265725 A1 ES 2199830 T3 HU 0201857 A2 JP 2003500216 T JP 2003526519 T PT 1198625 T US 2002037425 A1 ZA 200206694 A AU 8176901 A BR 0110836 A CA 2346587 A1 CN 1427901 T WO 0188226 A2 EP 1290246 A1 HU 0300706 A2 JP 2003533597 T US 2002012811 A1 US 2003091856 A1 US 2002102431 A1 US 2002086179 A1		15-07-2003 24-09-2001 06-03-2003 12-12-2000 05-03-2002 30-11-2000 20-09-2001 07-05-2003 24-07-2003 06-10-2003 30-11-2000 20-09-2001 24-04-2002 18-12-2002 01-03-2004 28-10-2002 07-01-2003 09-09-2003 28-11-2003 28-03-2002 21-08-2003 26-11-2001 30-12-2003 18-11-2001 02-07-2003 22-11-2001 12-03-2003 28-07-2003 11-11-2003 31-01-2002 15-05-2003 01-08-2002 04-07-2002
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Pour tout renseignement concernant cette annexe : voir Journal Officiel de l'Office européen des brevets, No.12/82

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> ( Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number			
	Filing Date		2006-05-26	
	First Named Inventor		Dulac	
	Art Unit			
	Examiner Name			
	Attorney Docket Number		007034.00008	

U.S. PATENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code <sup>1</sup>	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	6764558	A	2004-07-20	Pechiney Rhenalu	US Equivalent to WO 02/40729 A
	2	6923876	A	2005-08-02	Pechiney Rhenalu	US Equivalent to WO 02/40729 A

If you wish to add additional U.S. Patent citation information please click the Add button.

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS						
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code <sup>1</sup>	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	20010040180	A1	2001-11-15	Wijnenberg Jacques Hubert Olga, et al.	Paragraph 43; Claim 1

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number <sup>3</sup>	Country Code <sup>2</sup>	Kind Code <sup>4</sup>	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	99/60323	WO	A	1999-11-25	Reynolds Metals Company et al.	Page 3, last paragraph – Page 4, paragraph 1 Page 5, paragraph 2 Examples N,P;table 1 Page 13, last paragraph <input type="checkbox"/>
	2	00/71784	WO	A	2000-11-30	Corus Aluminium Walzprodukte GmbH et al.	Page 1, line 6-8; 19-23 Page 2, line 24 Page 7, line 4 Page 15, last paragraph Examples 3,4;table 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)			Application Number			
			Filing Date	2006-05-26		
			First Named Inventor	Dulac		
			Art Unit			
			Examiner Name			
Attorney Docket Number	007034.00008					

	3	02/060639	WO	A	2002-08-08	Corus Aluminium Walzprodukte GMBH et al.	Abstract	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	02/40729	WO	A	2002-05-23	Pechiney Rhenalu	Abstract	<input type="checkbox"/>

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#### NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, pages(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>5</sup>
	1	Patent Abstract of Japan. Vol. 2000, no.13, February 5, 2001 & JP 2000 303132 A (Kobe Steel Ltd., et al.) October 31, 2000. Abstract	<input type="checkbox"/>

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#### EXAMINER SIGNATURE

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.USPTO.GOV](http://www.USPTO.GOV) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>2</sup> Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>3</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>4</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>5</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
( Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)

Application Number	
Filing Date	2006-05-26
First Named Inventor	Dulac
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	007034.00008

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

Please see 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 to make the appropriate selection(s):

None

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.